Application No. 09/872,552 EFFICIENT COLLATION ELEMENT STRUCTURE FOR HANDLING LARGE NUMBERS OF CHARACTERS inventor(s): Ching-Lan Ho et al. **COMPUTER SYSTEM 102** DATABASE (WITH **EFFICIENT COLLATION ELEMENT** STRUCTURE) 104 DATABASE **DATAFILE** 104 106 **←**RECORDS **INDEX** 108 W(A) W(B) W(C)

FIG. 1

**COLLATION WEIGHT TABLE (CWT)** 

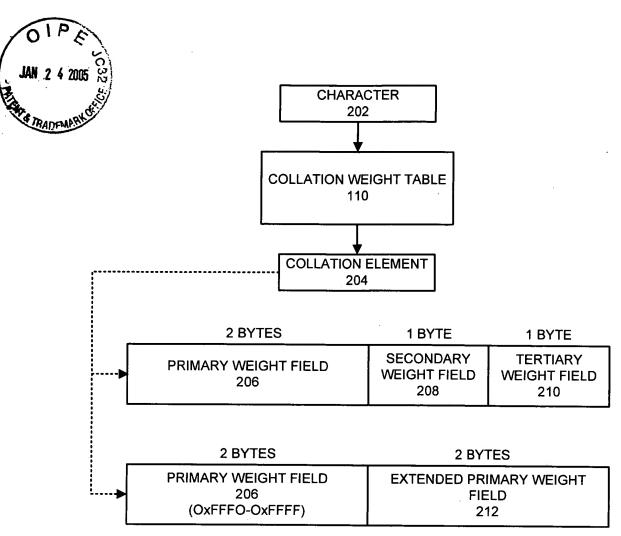


FIG. 2



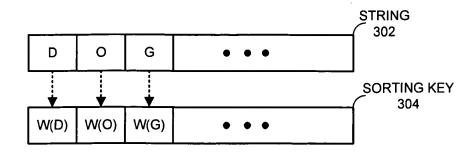


FIG. 3A

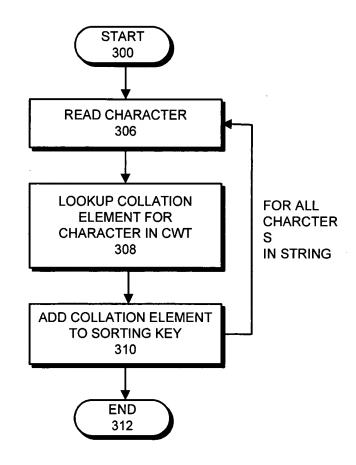


FIG. 3B



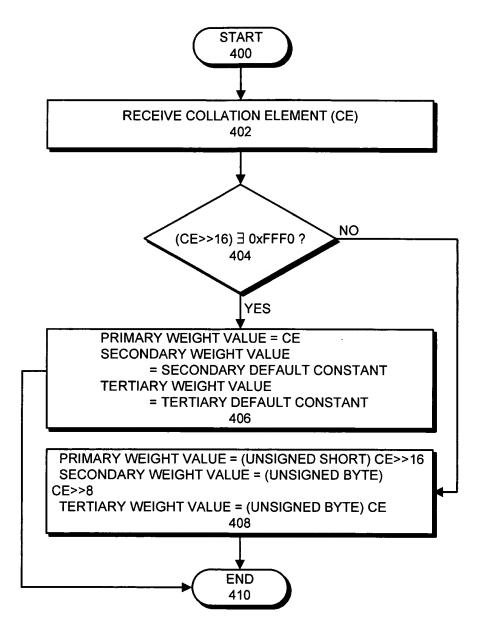


FIG. 4